

Office of Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform
Minister for Sport and Recreation
Leader of the House
Associate Minister of Finance



16 DEC 2024

OIA24-CB320 / OIAM-696

Suze Keith

By email: fyi-request-29238-55957f13@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Suze

Thank you for your email of 18 November 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. the total number of submissions made to the Fast Track Approvals Bill including the pro forma submissions*
- 2. the total number of submissions that opposed the FTAB and the number of submissions in support*
- 3. the reports to you or to the Environment Select Committee by your officials analysing the advice from the submissions and the rationale for adopting or rejecting the advice*
- 4. the application made by Santana Minerals requesting inclusion to the listed projects schedule in the FTAB*
- 5. the full analysis undertaken by the Project Advisory Group providing the rationale for inclusion or exclusion of projects to the FTAB. I do not mean this summarised version that is already on the MfE website:
[The Ministry for the Environment's \(the Ministry's\) departmental report on the Fast-track Approvals Bill contains the information you have requested in parts 1, 2, and 3 of your request. Specifically, information on the number of submissions is provided on page 6, and pages 7 to 13 analyse the submissions breaking down by support and theme. The report can be accessed on the Parliament website at:](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://environment.govt.nz/assets/acts-and-regulations/fast-track-projects-advisory-group-report-to-ministers-redacted.pdf__;!!Asq5-8xVch3Reg!vVeI4bsul64DFZvzIB0zbDLIKcGpi3b3RuD5sM5KGwaU79JNMQJVx5YXbRMNpayl4NGdSMqa4sFDVMmn7M3DocjLHpWgLghchU70RBXdqPcL$ - I would like to see the full analysis which I assume was shared with you to assist with your decision making</i><i>6. the process you followed to reduce the 342 projects recommended by the Advisory Group down to 149 projects, and the rationale for inclusion or exclusion.</i></div><div data-bbox=)*

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/54SCENV_ADV_083f0a7b-f182-41d5-0897-08dc3e31559c_ENV74124/ministry-for-the-environment-departmental-report.

All submissions, reports and advice to the Select Committee is available on the Parliament website at: <https://bills.parliament.nz/v/Bill/083f0a7b-f182-41d5-0897-08dc3e31559c?Tab=sub>

I am advised that the Ministry are working diligently to publish all applications, all advice they provided to Ministers regarding projects and the advice they provided to the Advisory Group about projects (including Officials' Summary Papers) on the Ministry's website on or before 20 December 2024. Once published, I expect you will be able to navigate to the material through: <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals-bill/>.

The material being released will be carefully considered under the provisions of the Act. In some cases, information may be withheld under section 9 of the Act, but only where necessary and where the public interest in disclosure does not outweigh the need to withhold, as outlined in section 9(1).

The analysis that I received from the Advisory Group is available on the Ministry for the Environment's website at: <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/acts-and-regulations/fast-track-projects-advisory-group-report-to-ministers-redacted.pdf>. I did not receive any further analysis from the Advisory Group.

While the independent Advisory Group recommended to Ministers a total of 342 projects for inclusion in the Bill, Cabinet chose to include only 149 of them to better reflect the capacity from expert panels to assess and consent these projects. Because of the unprecedented level of interest in this process, it became clear that so many projects were suitable for 2A that having a separate list for Schedule 2B became unnecessary, so it is intended to be removed from the Bill.

The makeup of the final list is not a reflection of the quality of projects not listed, nor is it a sign that any future application to the Fast-track process for these projects would be unsuccessful.

For the reasons outlined above, I am refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Act as the information you have requested is or will soon be publicly available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decisions relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please contact my office if you have any queries about this response.

Yours sincerely



Hon Chris Bishop
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform